

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 /084 W

----- 036352

R 151240Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2853

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 3934

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, KE

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CALLS OFF ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL LABOR OFFICIALS

REF: (A) NAIROBI 3169; (B) NAIROBI 3558

1. KENYAN MINISTRH OF LABOR ON MAY 14 CANCELLED SCHEDULED MAY 17 ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS OF CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS (COTU) WITH EXPLANATION THAT UNSPECIFIED PROBLEMS WITH COTU'S RECENTLY REVISED CONSTITUTION COULD DISRUPT ELECTIONS AND EXACERBATE EXISTING RIVALRIES AMONG TRADE UNION LEADERS. NO NEW DATE FOR ELECTIONS WAS ANNOUNCED.

2. RELIABLE CONTACT AT LABOR MINISTRY TOLD EMBOFF MAY 14, HOWEVER, THAT NO SUCH PROBLEMS EXIST. THE DECISION TO CANCEL ELECTIONS WAS PERSONALLY
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MADE BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA AND WAS QUOTE PURELY

POLITICAL UNQUOTE. ACCORDING SOURCE, KENYATTA WAS
AFRAID OF NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROBABLE DEFEAT
OF C MES
KAREBE WHO HAS SERVED AS COTU DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT
LAST FEBRUARY. KAREBE, WHO IS LEADING KIKUYU TRADE
UNIONIST IN KENYA, IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC
MIND WITH KENYATTA'S KIAMBU GROUP AND HIS OUSTER
FROM OFFICE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE FURTHER BLOW TO
KENYATTA'S ALREADY DIMINISHED PRESTIGE. THIS VIEW
SHARED BY COTU SEC GEN JUMA BOY WHO SAID
CANCELLATION OF ELECTIONS MADE QUOTE TO SAVE KAREBE'S
JOB UNQUOTE.
LINDSTROM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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